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College and School News

Delaware State College began its 53rd year on September 15 with a large enrollment. During the summer, the boys' dormitory was completely renovated.

Lincoln University (Mo.) has adopted special courses to fit Negro women for effective participation in the war and post-war world. They are being offered courses in engineering drawing, descriptive geometry, architectural design, radio, printing, machine-shop practice, wood finishing and furniture repair, home planning, mathematics, geology, physics, chemistry, gardening, secretarial training, accounting, management and dietetics, nutrition, clothing, music, teacher training and agriculture. Students of the agricultural department are required to spend at least 6 months acquiring intensive farm experience. The 78th year began on September 20.

Hampton Institute entered its 76th academic year with a resident civilian enrollment of 788 men and women students. The first year class consists of 314 students. There are 1,000 young men students of the armed forces at Hampton this year.

President Lanier welcomed 29 new staff members to the campus. These included Ernest Hays (piano and college organist) who has been studying for two years at Ohio State university; Dr. L. F. Palmer (education) former principal of Huntington High school in Newport News, Va.; Walter R. Chivers (social studies) on leave from Morehouse college sociology department; Miss Ann Cook formerly of Atlanta university who is coordinator of the institute's communications center; Marvin C. Dubbee (social studies); Irwin L. Glatstein (speech); John W. Lewis (automobile mechanics); J. Saunders Redding (English) formerly of Elizabeth City State college; and T. Roger Thompson (mathematics) an alumnus of Ohio State and Wilberforce universities. In charge of the Hampton Institute nursing school will be Miss Jane E. Sessoms, assisted by Miss Lottie Williams.

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Mrs. Mary Tobias Dean of the Laboratory school has been appointed program specialist of the USO headquarters staff in arts and crafts. Her paintings have been exhibited in many metropolitan galleries.

West Virginia State College began its 53rd year on September 20. The army specialized training unit numbers 129 soldiers and 6 reservists receiving instruction in basic engineering, mathematics, physics, chemistry, English, history, geography, physical training and military science.

Shaw University summer school commencement was held on August 20 when 54 graduates received their degrees. Shaw announces an undergraduate program of religious education which will provide undergraduate courses preparing students to be religious educators, missionaries, field workers or ministers and giving degrees of bachelor of arts and bachelor of divinity.

New additions to the faculty are William L. Green (mathematics and physics) an alumnus of Shaw and Cornell universities and former principal of the Nash County (Tenn.) Training School; Miss Carrie Harrison, acting dean of women; Mrs. Minnie H. Fields (elementary education); Dr. Miles Mark Fisher (religion); and Samuel A. Barksdale (physical education) dean of men.

The registration this year exceeds 222.

The 77th session of **Morgan State College** began on September 21. Of the 200 freshmen applying for admission, only 24 were male students.

New members of the faculty are Dr. Charlotte E. Crawford (English); Dr. Frank G. Davis (economics); Miss M. Theresa Kennedy (home economics); Montgomery W. King (English); Miss J. Leone Moore (physical education); Miss Lillie T. Vaden (English); Mrs.

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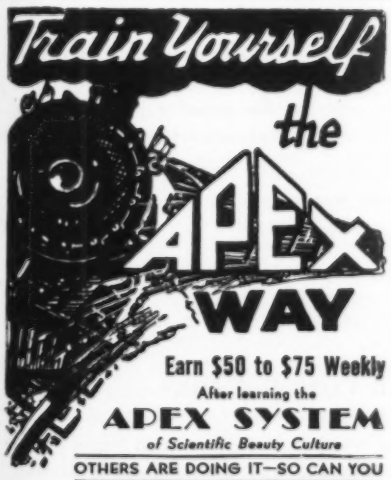

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Dr. Walter S. Davis is serving as acting president of **Tennessee State College** to succeed Dr. W. J. Hale. He has been a member of the faculty for 13 years and is an alumnus of the college with a M.S. and Ph.D. degree from Cornell university. He is an expert in agriculture and related sciences.

William H. Hastie has returned to his duties as dean of the school of law at **Howard University.** He was on leave of absence as Civilian Aide to the

(*Continued on page* 318)

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Vol. 50, No. 10 *Whole Number 394*

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THE CRISIS *was founded in* 1910 *and is the official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is published monthly at 69 Fifth Avenue, N. Y., by The Crisis Publishing Co., Inc., Dr. Louis T. Wright, president; Walter White, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian A. Alexander, treasurer. The subscription price is* $1.50 *a year or* 15¢ *a copy. Foreign subscriptions* $1.75. *The date of expiration of each subscription is printed on the wrapper. When the subscription is due a blue renewal blank is enclosed. The address of a subscriber may be changed as often as desired, but both the old and new address must be given and two weeks' notice is necessary. Manuscripts and drawings relating to colored people are desired. They must be accompanied by return postage, and while* THE CRISIS *uses every care, it assumes no responsibility for their safety in transit. Entered as second class matter November 2,* 1910, *at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3,* 1879, *and additional second class entry at Albany, N. Y.*
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NEXT MONTH

Dr. Howard Odum of the University of North Carolina will contribute an article on racial tension.

George S. Schuyler, business manager of *The Crisis*, will answer affirmatively the question "Will a Long War Aid the Negro?" in reply to the negative position taken by Benjamin Quarles in the September *Crisis*.

There will be a pictorial essay "What College Students are Doing to Aid the War Effort."

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Ernest E. Johnson is chief of the Associated Negro Press, Washington, D. C. Bureau, who accompanied President Edwin Barclay of Liberia on his American tour.

Willard Townsend is president of the United Transport Service Employes of America, C.I.O.

Chester B. Himes has contributed many stories to *The Crisis*. He lives in Los Angeles, California.

Editorials

Jim Crow Boomerang

THE drafting of fathers, scheduled to begin October 1, has caused many persons in authority to scrutinize more closely the whole manpower situation and the Selective Service policies.

We believe, with the majority of Americans, that the military men in charge of our global war ought to be the final judges of what they need to win the war. But the Manpower Commission and Selective Service and general Army policy have been at fault insofar as the Negro American is concerned, and it is no secret that the Negro policy has contributed to the necessity for drafting fathers.

Restrictions upon the use of Negro men and women in war plants have necessitated the employment of young white men in the best Army age brackets who could serve their country in uniform.

The segregation policy of the Army, Navy and Marine corps has restricted the enlistment and drafting of Negroes in accordance with a racial quota. This policy has been unfair to both Negroes and whites. In 1940 it barred Negroes from enlisting freely in the Army and Navy (except as mess attendants) and in the Marines. After the Selective Service act became effective, it sharply restricted Negroes in the Army because (a) only a certain number of Negro units of certain types was contemplated, and (b) the required separate facilities, based on race, were not ready in many instances, or were not feasible.

For example, although the rest of the Army was training all its officers together, Negroes who wanted military aviation training had to wait until an entire separate air training base was built for them in Alabama. The quota for it was so small that at one time the waiting list of applicants was sufficient for more than a year. While this meant that thousands of Negro lads were forced into other branches of the service, it also meant that a like number of white boys were being sent to fly and die for their country—*out of their turn.*

The Army has just made the commendable decision that Negroes will be trained as bomber crews, but this comes almost two years after Pearl Harbor. As a first step in 1941 and 1942 it would have drawn young Negroes into the air corps and thus helped to relieve the pressure, at this date, for fathers.

It has been shown again and again that the usual order to local draft boards for so many whites and so many Negroes has worked a hardship on whites. Eligible Negroes on the lists are skipped and whites farther down on the list are taken, simply because of the racial quota.

All this stems from the armed forces policy of separate racial units. If our men were called as Americans and mustered into the armed forces without regard to color there would be a much more even distribution of fighting manpower, much more Americanism in the mixed army, and, undoubtedly, less pressure for taking fathers. The essence of the Selective Service system is that it favors no man, that each citizen takes his turn, after a fair drawing, in serving his country in time of war. The Jim Crow policy of the armed forces has destroyed that essence.

It has been said rather bitterly by Negroes that America does not want them to fight and gain any glory for themselves in this war. Whether that be true or not, it is certain that Jim Crow has been a boomerang in the war manpower situation.

How About Navy Pilots?

LT. COL. B. O. DAVIS has returned to this country from Sicily where he was in command of the 99th pursuit squadron, the pioneer military aviation unit of Negroes in America. He brings word that the "experimental" period is over so far as Negroes in military aviation is concerned in the Army Air Forces, that our boys have proved their ability in combat.

Official confirmation of his report is seen in the announcement that the Army Air Forces will begin the training of Negroes for medium bomber crews to operate twin-engined B-26 Martin Marauders.

Now that the Army has established the fact that Negroes can fly in combat aviation, why does not the Navy begin the training of Negro pilots? Everybody tells Americans that this is *our* war. How about everyone fighting it?

Railroads Plead Guilty

TWENTY-TWO major railroads of the country and fourteen railroad unions have pleaded guilty to charges of deliberate and systematic discrimination against Negro and Mexican workers. In four days of hearings before the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice bald admissions of discriminatory policies were placed in the record by the carriers. The unions did not deign to appear and deny or affirm their lily-white policies.

The railroads admitted they did not hire Negroes as firemen, enginemen, trainmen, conductors, or stewards, and that they did not promote Negroes from certain categories in which they are at present employed. Negro firemen, once numerous on southern carriers, are being frozen out; none has been hired since the middle Twenties. Negroes may be porters, waiters, cooks, laborers, and helpers—nothing else.

There was a great hue and cry when these hearings were summarily cancelled last January. Pressure finally brought about a reorganization of FEPC and a re-scheduling of the hearings. The revelations in the record are ample justification for the long fight for, although most Negroes knew of the policies in effect, they had little idea of the ramifications and the complete shackling of our people in the railroad industry. Few white people outside of those in the industry knew the facts.

We are not naive enough to believe that a hearing by a government agency in itself can change conditions, but it is a step forward in the fight for economic opportunity to have an official record of the discrimination. We can go on from here. We can spread the story (and we will have to do it, since the daily papers, with two exceptions, boycotted the hearings) and we can mobilize our pressures, political, moral, and economic, to effect a change.

Our fight here and abroad is for democracy. The essence of democracy is equality of opportunity. We must put down our anger at the arrogance of the railroads and the miserableness of the railroad unions and get to work on the problem. We can win.

A "Cinch" Bet

NEGRO voters, looking toward 1944, may not have made up their minds on Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Willkie, Mr. Dewey, Mr. Bricker, Mr. Wallace and some others, but it is a sure bet that they will *not* go along with Mr. Hull, of Tennessee, Mr. Rayburn, of Texas, or Mr. Byrnes, of South Carolina, especially Mr. Byrnes.

The Liberian State Visit

By Ernest E. Johnson

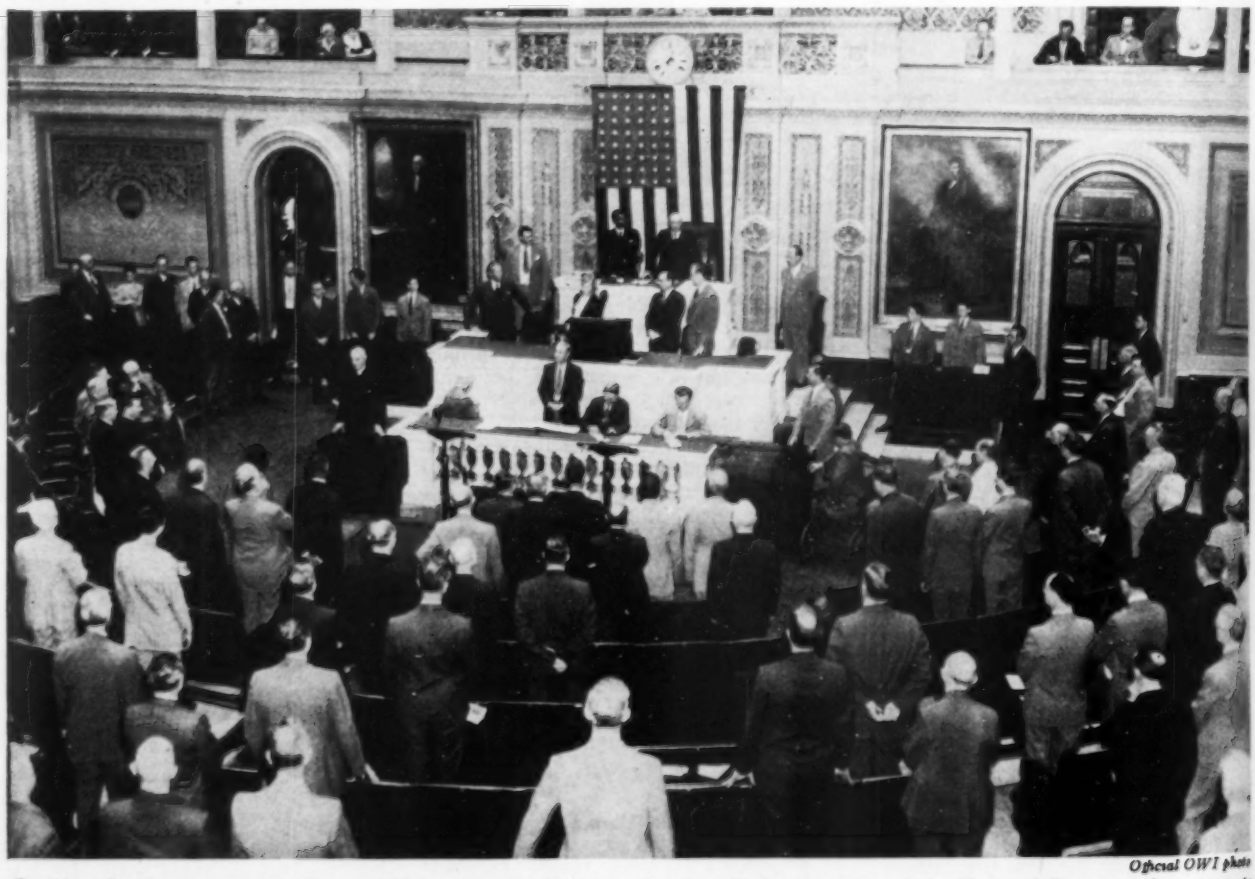
A Negro journalist appraises the recent visit to this country of President Barclay and President-elect Tubman of the Negro republic of Liberia, telling what was accomplished by that memorable journey ostensibly to repay an earlier visit to Liberia by President Roosevelt.

WATER under the bridge or over the dam is still water, and enough of it has gone by to permit, with reasonable perspective, an evalution to be made of the significance of the visit to this country of President Edwin Barclay of the Republic of Liberia. What was said and done is not a matter of complete public record, nor are the exchanges made, material and psychological, entirely available for free and general appraisal.

In the course of the visit, however, it was my singularly good fortune, as a reporter, to accompany the party almost continually from the moment of their arrival until about a week or ten days prior to their departure. Naturally, my concern centered around these questions which were bound to be asked by an inquiring person. I wanted to be able to provide either the answers to those questions, or sufficient information to make possible the drawing of reasonable conclusions. I do not infer that State secrets were entrusted to me. My observations are based upon what I had seen and heard, and what I have since been able to pick up to fill in the picture.

Frankly, I do not believe the visit was a howling success, from the point of view of the Liberian dignitaries nor from the point of view of darker peoples the world over—and that includes American Negroes. True, there was some bargaining between the two governments which resulted in the signing of a lend-lease agreement. Also, there was the appearance before Congress of President Barclay himself, ostensibly for the purpose of greeting this nation's chief legislators, and through them the American people. There was, too, a short swing around a few industrial areas, which afforded the visitors an opportunity to inspect our military might. Everything else was window-dressing, and the Republicans seemed to have gotten a corner on this phase of the trip.

The American Negro is rarely treated to such "high caste" social activity as was provided by the presence of President Barclay. The glitter and fanfare that accompanied his welcome, in Washington



Official OWI photo

President Barclay presented to House of Representatives. Representative Sam Rayburn, speaker of the House of Representatives, presents His Excellency Edwin Barclay, President of the Republic of Liberia, to the Lower House of the U. S. Congress on May 27, 1943. President Barclay had addressed the U. S. Senate a few minutes earlier.

and on the tour, all made possible by local efforts, to a degree diverted attention away from the real reason for the visit. The announced purpose, nonetheless, was that the Liberian Chief of State was repaying a "coffee-and-doughnuts" stop-over which President Roosevelt had made in January on the latter's return from the now historic Casablanca Conferences with Prime Minister Winston Churchill. If such was actually the case, then it was a courtesy call and nothing more. Certainly the signing of a lend-lease agreement would not necessarily alter this excuse.

As a matter of fact though I was quite frankly told by one who should have known, that the visit was not a "sightseeing trip." And it was not, considering the rapidity with which we were whisked through war plants in Akron, Columbus, Buffalo, and Chester. Further, it may have been the devotion of a gracious host (in a minor key, so to speak, since President Roosevelt was the primary host) that had Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., bobbing up at frequent intervals, along with his legal aide—but I doubt it seriously.

To get a good grip on the subject, one would have to go back a piece, about nine months before the Allied invasion of North Africa. Beyond that point you would only learn that Liberia was established about 1819 by a group of goodhearted Americans called the American Colonization Society, who wanted to provide a "homeland" for freed Negroes. It was a sort of a loose affair, this settlement on the coast of West Africa, and it was the efforts of these pioneer Negroes to collect customs from merchantmen that compelled them to federate and declare their independence as a sovereign state. They did on July 26, 1847. American missionaries nursed the young republic along, aided at times by the United States government, and have always maintained a parental eye.

Defense Agreement

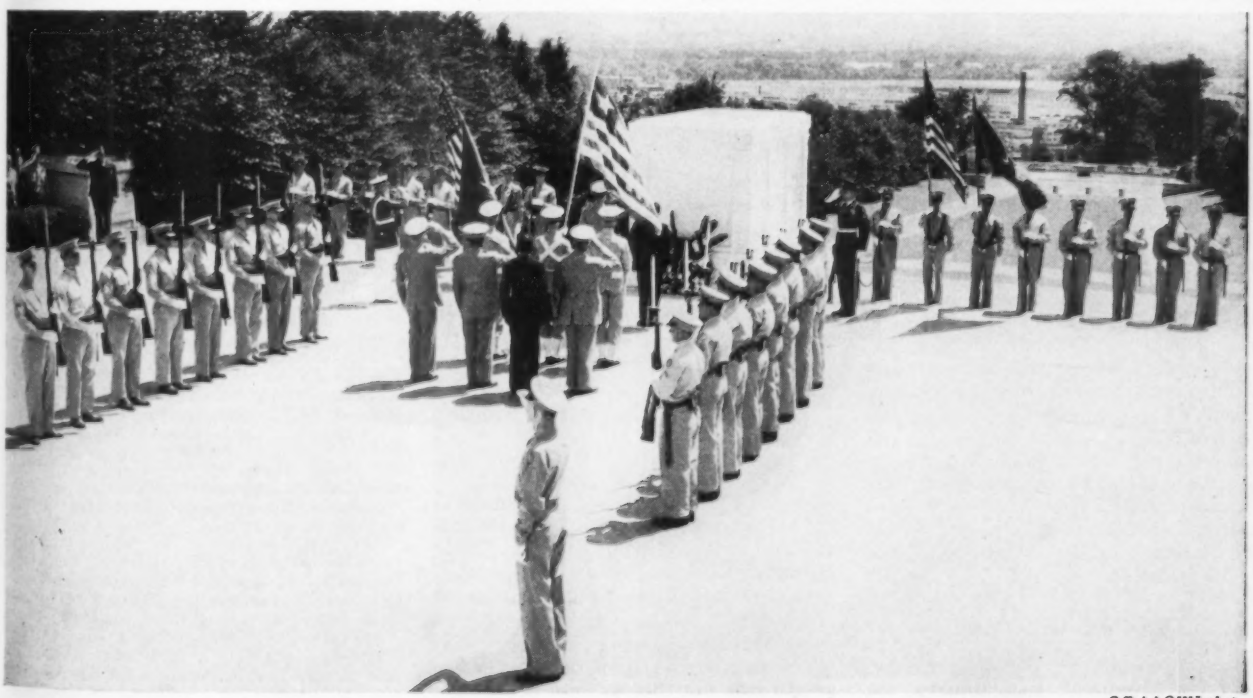
Early last year the American government began negotiations with Liberia through the late Frederick P. Hibbard, chargé d'affaire at Monrovia. Lester Walton, Negro minister, was home in the United States at the time. These discussions led to the formalizing of a defense agreement on March 31, 1942, accompanied by certain verbal understandings. The agreement permitted the United States government to construct and maintain a huge air base in Liberia for the mutual defense. Ernie Pyle, earthy war correspondent, has seen this field. In his syndicated column he wrote:

> "In the tropical, legendary part of Central Africa which was once famous in the worldwide slave trade, there is now a fabulous American camp. This camp is an airfield . . the biggest American aerial operation anywhere outside the United States. It has big shops and great warehouses . . takes thousands of men to run . . and handle the planes that flow through here. The camp is equipped to care for hundreds of flying transients every night. The place is truly an aerial Times Square . . paved streets . . electric lights . . tennis courts . . movies . . refrigerators . . . ."

It naturally followed that American troops would have to protect all this plumbing, wiring and concrete built by Pan American Airways with the aid of U. S. Army Engineers, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company engineers, and local labor. A Negro regiment of engineers landed in Liberia in May, 1942, two months after the agreement was signed. Later, conversations leading to lend-lease got under way, and a preliminary agreement was signed on March 10, 1943 by Walter F. Walker, the Liberian Consul-General at New York.

Now what was the importance of all this activity and negotiation? The collapse of France in the early spring of 1940 brought with it the establishment of the Vichy government of collaboration with the conquerors. Much of France's empire remained intact. This fact ever remained a threat to the approaches to the Western Hemisphere via South America. Dakar, the strong naval base of French West Africa, was too close for comfort to South America. Axis submarine attacks were being launched from that point. There was also the moot question as to the likelihood of an Axis thrust into adjacent British colonies. All of these dangers prompted the American government to move swiftly to counteract any such possibility.

Obviously, the move made was an Allied defensive tactic. Wars, unfortunately, are not won that way, a fact which



Official OWI photo

President of Liberia honors Unknown Soldier. His Excellency Edwin Barclay, President of the Republic of Liberia, paid homage to the Unknown Soldier on a visit to Arlington National Cemetery Saturday, May 29, 1943.

Official OWI photo

Luncheon for Liberian presidential party. His Excellency Edwin Barclay, President of the Republic of Liberia, was feted by Negro civic, social, professional and educational leaders Saturday, May 29, 1943 at a luncheon at the Lucy Diggs Slowe Hall in Washington, D. C. Seated left to right: Bria. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, U.S.A.; W. V. S. Tubman, President-elect of Liberia; President Barclay; Dr. Emmett J. Scott, chairman on the committee on invitation, and Capt. Alfred Russ, Chief of the Liberian Frontier Force. Standing left to right: Stanley Woodward, Frederick Hibbard and Henry S. Willard, State Department, and Walter F. Walker, Liberian Consul at New York.

the chief strategists of this one realized. Hence, it was in pursuance of this military thinking that Allied forces, under General Dwight D. Eisenhower, landed on the beaches of North Africa one morning in November and began the clean-up of the Axis on the dark continent.

The completion of the task relieved the strain on Dakar and environs, and control of Africa was once again restored to the champions of democracy. For immediate military purposes, Liberia's stock automatically slumped—and so did its bargaining power. Liberia had served a purpose, a good purpose, and the United States government was not unmindful of the contribution. Events could have been much different, and the African republic might have been called upon to make greater sacrifices. President Barclay has already attested to its readiness and willingness.

Two Presidents Meet

Some fifty miles outside of Monrovia, the Liberian capital, last January, the two Presidents met and talked shop. Mr. Roosevelt wanted to know what we could do to help square matters. Mr. Barclay, in spite of the approaching termination of twelve years of service, still wanted to see some things done for his country to which he might point as his accomplishments. He knew, for example, that the Firestone Company plantation was providing some employment for Liberians, but not enough. Of the one million acres which the agreement of November, 1926, permitted the company to purchase out of public lands, only 75,000 were under cultivation. Construction of the air field had afforded some benefits, but not lasting.

Barclay, however, was concerned about the many other resources of his country which were not getting into world markets. There was palm oil and palm nuts, rice, coffee, piassava fibre for brooms, and the ivory tusks, and mahogany and redwood from the hinterlands. He wanted buyers. Before the war, Germany had been Liberia's chief customer. He wanted roads to get these resources down to the sea. The country boasts between two and three hundred miles of good roads but they are not continuous nor sufficient. More important, he needed a good harbor. The coast of Liberia is studded with reefs, which necessitates the use of lighters to transfer cargoes from ship to shore and vice versa, a charge which has an adverse affect upon market price. It was President Roosevelt though who intimated that a harbor would be a desirable thing, and should be built without delay. Perhaps in the course of a State visit these problems could be satisfactorily worked out through lend-lease, was the suggestion.

The official party of President Barclay arrived in the United States on May 26 and returned to Monrovia on June 27. Accompanying His Excellency were the Hon. W. V. S. Tubman, President-elect; and Captain Alford Russ of the Liberian Frontier Force. Joining them here was Consul-General Walker. It is history now that President Barclay stayed at the White House the first night, the first Negro so honored, and with his party at Blair House for the remaining few days in the Capital.

The party, augmented by three State Department men, Brigadier General Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., United States Army, and myself, left Washington on Sunday, May 30, made five intermediate stops, and arrived in New York City Friday morning, June 4. The party was lodged in a suite at the Waldorf Astoria. On June 5, President Barclay entered a private hospital for a minor foot ailment and remained there about ten days. Beginning

(*Continued on page* 312)

Citizen CIO

By Willard Townsend,

The distinguished president of the United Transport Service Employes of America describes the efforts of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in combating racial prejudice and discrimination in labor movement and the war effort.

ONE of the bright spots, in an otherwise dark picture of race riots, lynching, job discrimination, and the brutal treatment of the Negro in the armed services, is the aggressive fight being waged by the Congress of Industrial Organization along the racial front. Today the CIO has two new powerful weapons in its battle against discrimination—the Committee to Abolish Discrimination, formed to eliminate racial discrimination within its own ranks; and the National CIO War Relief Committee, set up to administer the collection of war relief funds from organized labor.

The CIO War Relief Committee, in existence two years before the Anti-Discrimination Committee, collected more than $17,000,000 last year for relief to the United Nations. But vastly more important, is the fact that half of this enormous fund goes to local community agencies in 400 cities throughout the United States. And now that the organized labor movement has entered the fund-raising field, CIO can bring its powerful forces of five million members —500,000 of them Negroes—to the fight against racial discrimination in the new field of social agencies.

This development should be acutely the concern of Negroes. For the CIO holds that since there was no color line in the shops and factories when Negroes and whites alike pledged "one hour's pay a month" to raise war relief funds, there certainly should be no discrimination in the administering of the funds directed to local community agencies.

How does the CIO implement its declared policy of "no-discrimination" among the social agencies with whom it deals, and those who are beneficiaries of organized labor's contributions?

Listen to Monroe Sweetland, national director of the CIO War Relief Committee. "From its inception," he declared, in a speech before the Secretaries of the YMCAs boldly scoring race separatism, "the CIO broke with much of American labor's tradition and has tackled this horny problem—of race discrimination —and segregation—where it hurts—at the job level. By bold insistence on a pan-racial membership and employment policy, CIO defied the whole tradition of segregation and 'keeping the Negro in his place' by affirming that the place of the Negro worker is alongside the white worker—and with no 'but' clause to provide regional or individual escape."

Anti-Negro elements have taken advantage of this policy, he said, "We have lost important labor board elections to other labor groups because the voting workers were whites whose prejudices were aroused. We have had internal revolts among white workers against the first Negroes who went to work. But by educating and fighting on this basic issue there are today literally hundreds of thousands of Negro families whose wage-earners work at union scales in American industry.

"If a new organization on the American scene like the CIO," he challenged, "without friends or security, can accomplish this much in seven years, why can't the powerful YMCA do as much in its field?

"The YMCA can do much, not through a segregated, Jim-Crow set-up, but by leading the community in pulling our various racial and national strains together."

He asked: "Are we right in our estimate that generally the YMCA followed community prejudice and custom, instead of leading away from them?

"Isn't this the year to abolish Jim-Crow restaurants and dormitories in your institution everywhere?"

Policy Produces Results

Such a policy has produced tangible results. By the end of 1943, three thousand CIO representatives—Negro and white—will be serving on the directing boards of social agencies and relief organizations. The catalogue of agencies includes everyone from Boy Scouts of America to YMCA, to visiting nurses. These CIO people are attending luncheon meetings, round table discussions, talking with men and women who have been consistently guilty of Negro discrimination.

The full weight of the CIO's progres-

Federated Pictures

John Adams, member of Local 835 UAW-6 CIO, doesn't lose a minute in signing his pledge card of an hour's pay per month for CIO War Relief. James Stansberry, plant chairman, is shown filling out Adams' card.

sive policies is felt at these meetings. Thus, these labor representatives—Negro and white—allow no Jim Crow-bookkeeping or racial differentials by social agencies when relief money is to be spent. They insist—with the organized power of the CIO backing them—that Negro social agencies receive adequate appropriation and that other social agencies give increased services to Negro recipients. They are keenly aware of the need.

These activities extend to war agencies. Last year CIO members gave $4,000,000 to USO. It was the largest single contribution on that organization's books, and with the money went labor's pledge, "Our funds shall not support any kind of minority discrimination." Men in uniform—white and Negro—listen to juke boxes, dance, read magazines, every night at labor's first USO canteen, built and operated by CIO and AFL in Philadelphia. White and Negro girls act as hostesses. For before construction started on the canteen, labor reminded USO officials that there could be no segregation or exclusion of Negroes in any labor canteen.

This development is not localized. In Detroit members of the Women's Auxiliary—again Negro and white—of the United Automobile Workers CIO are serving doughnuts and coffee at the "John R" USO center for Negroes; entertaining some fifty thousand servicemen who have visited the club during the last six months.

Supplied Musical Instruments

Sweet music in CIO's ears is the top-notch bugle and drum corps of the 514th Negro regiment at Fort Meade, Md. At the request of the men stationed there CIO furnished 27 bugles, three big drums for the corps—a number of the men in this outfit were former members of the big "name" bands. Colonel Krokus at Fort Meade wrote to the CIO War Relief Committee, "I know of no other medium," he said, "by which the morale of our men could have been brought to its present high level. The new bugle and drum corps in a short time should rank with some of the best in the country."

CIO goes in for interior decoration at Army posts, too, where this will help the morale of the troops. At most camps the Army sets aside recreation rooms but makes no provision for furnishing them. At least half of the money the CIO spends on Army interior decorating goes to Negro camps, because at many posts Army indifference and Jim-Crow communities leave the Negro soldier with no place to spend his leisure time.

CIO did its first interior decoration job at Camp Butner in North Carolina, where Negro soldiers are stationed. Before being refurnished, Monroe Sweetland, National Director of CIO's War Relief Committee, visited in one of the recreation rooms there. He found cobwebs along the walls, a rusty, pot-bellied stove, a large and shabby newspaper rack, with only two newspapers. He went shopping with some five hundred dollars, and he bought davenports, easy chairs, material for drapes, card tables, reading tables, radio phonographs, two pianos, band instruments and subscribed to a number of newspapers.

War relief funds of CIO people also aid the colored peoples abroad. There are 10 million Negro French subjects today sharing in the Free French relief funds to which CIO contributes. There are 6,500,000 Negro Frenchmen in French Equatorial Africa, the most vital strategic area on the African continent. Added to them are 4,000,000 natives and refugees in Syria and Lebanon, on Tahiti and New Hebrides in the Pacific and Martinique at the foot of the United States.

They receive food, clothing and medical supplies to help them continue their fight for freedom. The world knows the courage of the natives of French equatorial Africa under M. Felix Ehoue, its black governor-general and of the courage of the Sengalese troops who fought for the old France and now under the banner of the Free French movement.

The CIO War Relief Committee's Servicemen's Manual, an item that acquaints the soldier with his civilian rights, which has been distributed to more than a hundred thousand servicemen, speaks plainly on the race question. The 34-page booklet tells the man in uniform about his special civil and military rights and what his status is when he returns to civilian life after the war. The section entitled "United We Stand; Divided We Fall," is an eloquent plea for racial equality and somewhat in line with the NAACP's request to War Department that literature should be prepared for the servicemen about the race problem.

Big Four News Photo Service

George Weaver, national executive director of the Committee to Abolish Discrimination.

Straight Thinking Needed

"Straight thinking is the duty of every citizen on the problems of religious and racial prejudices"—runs a typical section. "The Nazi game is to stir every racial and religious prejudice to try to divide the American people. CIO men are doing much in the services and with the public to demonstrate by work and example the unity of all Americans against the Axis . . . Hundreds of thousands of CIO members are among American minority racial and religious groups. If you happen to be among them, you know your CIO is always ready to go to bat to protect you against discrimination on the job or wherever you may be."

While the National CIO War Relief Committee recognizes the rights of white and Negro servicemen in the and Navy, CIO fights for racial democracy in the local unions and factories. That fight starts on the production line.

CIO has adopted an aggressive "no discrimination" job policy to prove to thousands of new workers that the democratic processes at work in the labor movement make no distinctions because of race, religion, color or nationality. The union knows that if it fails to utilize the skills and strength of every American workman, it prolongs a bloody and destructive war. This line of thinking was expressed at the November, 1942 convention, when the CIO established its Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination. Sincere, hard-fighting, the Committee is tackling a rough job with vigor and courage. By demanding full utilization of manpower in all industries, it has broken down racial barriers that were a half century in the making.

The National Executive Director of the Committee is a Negro, George Weaver, an officer of the United Transport Service Employees of America. He presents CIO's

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It's CIO music. The CIO War Relief Committee bought fife and drums for the drum corps at Ft. Meade, Md. Many of the players played in big-time bands during civilian days.

"Get 'Em Paid"

The War Department's Office of Dependency Benefits in Newark, N. J., is living proof that democracy works when those in authority are determined to have it do so. Judged solely on merit, clerks of all colors, nationalities and religions work amicably, side by side, to serve the eight million people who are dependent upon their work.

"DEMOCRACY at work" is a phrase that fits the War Department's great agency, the Office of Dependency Benefits, like a glove. The job the thousands of ODB employees are turning out is proof that Democracy works. It isn't done by aid of mirrors or magic, but by teamwork —the teamwork of all pulling on the same rope at the same time in the same direction.

An executive order states that there is to be no discrimination in any government agency because of race, creed, or color—the ODB adheres to that policy unequivocably. The clerks know that they are judged on merit alone. Shoulder to shoulder Americans of all nationalities and races . . . Greeks, Italians, Germans, Africans, and Jews . . . work together harmoniously in the big 22-story Newark skyscraper to "Get 'Em Paid." This is the slogan that their Director, Brig. Gen. H. N. Gilbert, USA, originated for them, and they are living up to it.

Already more than 8,000,000 people—wives, parents, and children of soldiers —are dependent on the work they are doing. The ODB clerks know that if they fail, our soldiers will be less efficient fighters, for they will worry about the folks back home. They are not failing and will not fail these boys.

The ODB is now disbursing at the rate of more than two billion dollars a year, sending out more than four million checks each month. To date nearly 3½ million applications for family allowances have been received and almost 2 million authorizations for voluntary Class E allotments-of-pay. The volume of mail (to date approximately 17 million incoming and over 20 million outgoing) can be likened to the business done by the Post Office Department in a city of 170,000 people.

Brig. Gen. H. H. Gilbert, U.S.A., director of the War Department Office of Dependency Benefits in Newark, N. J.

Under the very able direction of General Gilbert, a hero of World War I and an experienced administrator and organizer, this great organization is well equipped to handle the avalanche of applications which continually pour in and the inevitable headaches that follow in their wake. From the outset the ODB was set up to handle effectively personnel problems as well.

Last November, when the ODB transferred from Washington to Newark, the Director had the keen foresight to realize that the 3,500 employees who came along from Washington would have to make a social adjustment and that this might constitute a problem. The Director realized that the way to handle the problem was to find social outlets for the to services of all denominations and to a newcomers in a community already topsy-turvy by the war program. Complicating the job was the fact that a

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U. S. Army Signal Corps photo

From the mail branch the family allowance application goes to the record and record searching branch of the War Department Office of Dependency Benefits in Newark, N. J. where processing is begun after being checked for duplication, eligibility of soldier applying, etc. These workers on an Office of Dependency Benefits production line are checking or recording facts for which they are responsible, noting their operations and passing the "family allowance case" on to the next one in line. The Office of Dependency Benefits sends out over 4,000,000 ***checks every month in allotment-of-pay and family allowance payments*** *made on behalf of over 8,000,000 members of army men's families.*

So Softly Smiling

By Chester B. Himes

A young soldier home on leave finds something bigger and more enduring than hate and blood and death

TO Roy Johnny Squires, a lieutenant in the U. S. Army, who for six months had seen much of life and too much of death, through the blinding glare of desert heat, it felt unreal being home in Harlem for thirty days. North African warfare had left its mark on him—it kept raging through his brain like a red inferno that would never cease, tautening his muscles and jerking his reflexes and keeping his eyes constantly on the alert. For hours he had been tramping the familiar streets, scanning the familiar faces; and even now, at two in the morning, it did not mean a thing. His nerves were sticking out like wires.

It was too un-dead, un-wounded, bloodless, entire—too human. That was it—too human again after the bombings and the shellings and the snipings, the charges with twenty and the arrivals with twelve; the egg-sized balls of heat that grew like mushrooms at the base of the brain. It was too filled with something, too much like just lying down and crying like a baby. A drink was in line; a drink was most needed.

He pushed into a tony after-hours spot on 125th Street and headed toward the bar.

"Make mine rye," he said to the bartender.

And then, halfway turning, he saw her. He was startled. He had left her in the dull, dawn khamsins where only her face had stood between him and a death that was never two feet off. Those purely feminine features with a tawny skin like an African veld at sunset, so smooth you forever wanted to touch it, crowned by blue-black hair that rolled up from her forehead in great curling billows like low storm clouds. That mouth, wide enough for a man to really kiss, and the color of crushed rosebuds. He could not be mistaken.

She was sitting by herself over against the wall at a low, lounge table, as if waiting for some one. The pianist was playing Chopin's *Fantasie,* and she was lost in listening; maybe trying to catch something that the music promised but never gave. He swung slowly from the bar and sauntered over, magnetized, and stood across the table, looking down at her. Not disrespectfully, not recklessly; but with all the homage in the world.

"You're as beautiful as I knew you'd be," he said.

She turned a widened glance on him, and something new and unexpected, almost unbelievable, came alive in her face, as if she might have seen what the music promised but never gave. Then her long black lashes lowered lacquered fans over the sudden boy-and-girl game in her eyes. After a moment she looked up-from-under into his face and murmured, "I am?" slightly questioning, the corners of her mouth quirking in beginning laughter.

The shaded wall light mellowed her into a painting, life-like and provocative, with eyes like two candles in a darkened church; and perfume came out of her hair and burnt through him like flame. For a long time now there had only been the girl in the clouds; and he could not help himself. He reached out and drew her to him and kissed her with long and steady pressure.

Behind them, some one gasped; a laugh caught, moved, and died.

But he did not hear. Because her lips were smooth and soft and resilient, like the beginning of life, as he had dreamed they would be; and he kept kissing her until the breath had gone from both of them.

Finally she broke away, gasping, "Why did you do that?"

"I don't know," he confessed, his eyes on hers; and after a moment added, as if thinking aloud. "To get something, I guess."

She waited so long that he thought she would not reply, then she asked, "Did you?"

"Yes."

"I'm glad."

They stood on the brink of something suddenly discovered, something new and big and important, looking at each other until the long, live moment ran out. And then he dropped a bill on the table and took her by the arm and they went outside and turned down Seventh Avenue, silent for the most part, drawing feelings from each other without words, and after a time it began to snow again, but neither of them noticed. Hours later, it seemed, they came to Central Park, and sat on a bench and kissed.

The February daybreak found them still there, two whitened images in the softly sifting snow; and finally she said, "I should have waited for Dorothy, she'll be furious."

"Then—then you're not married?", quickly, as if he had been afraid to ask before.

"No, darling," she teased. "Aren't my kisses adorably inexperienced?"

He kissed her again, then said with an odd solemnity. "They're everything I dreamed that they would be."

They had breakfast at a crowded little lunch counter, but were oblivious of the other people; and when they couldn't stretch the minutes any longer, he said, his intense glance playing over her face, "I have to go back in twenty-nine days, so please don't fall in love with me." Taking a deep breath, he continued, "But don't leave me, please don't leave me; I'm already so much in love with you."

She was looking at him, at his young, gaunt face with too much thinness down the cheeks and too much blankness in the eyes, hiding too much that he had seen that she could now feel hard and constricted inside of him. Looking at him; and at his tall, lithe figure in the jaunty uniform of a commissioned officer, question-marked against the counter and back-grounded against the row of coffee drinking workers, which, without any effort, had she closed her eyes, she could have seen without its litheness, bloated and wormy and unidentifiable as either black or white in the barren heat of an African desert. But her gaze remained steadily on his face, brown and full-lipped and handsome, and once she opened her mouth as if to speak, and then closed it as if she could not find the handle to the words, and finally, when she replied, it was only to say, "Yes," answering in the affirmative to a number of questions he might have found it hard to ask.

THREE days later they taxied to Grand Central Station and boarded a train for some little sleepy town somewhere—it did not matter—and they were married. Miss Mona Morrison, successful poet, who had lived alone on Sugar Hill, became the ordinary wife of a U. S. Army officer.

But it did not seem at all strange that this should be happening to her, or to either of them; the strange thing would have been its not happening.

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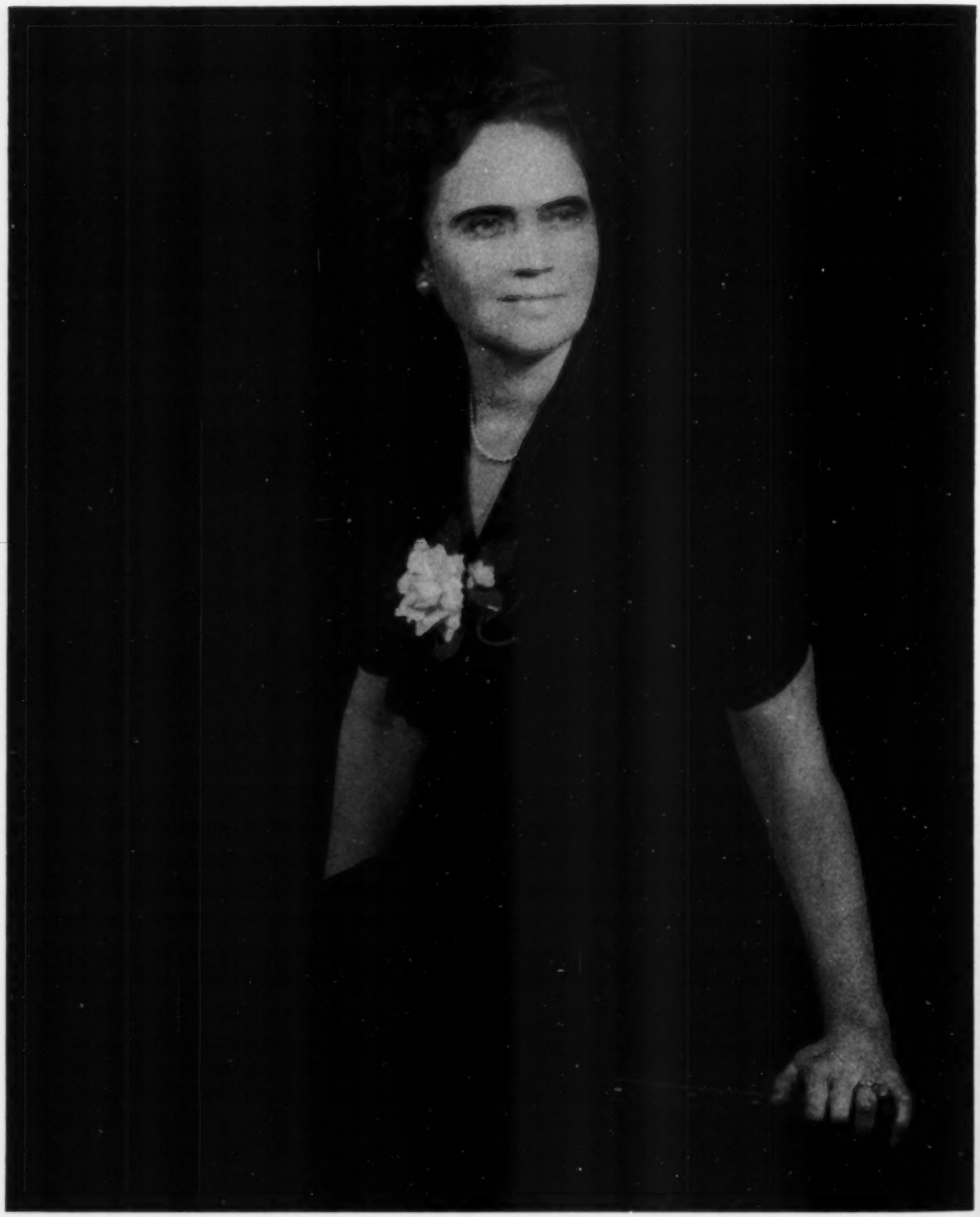
First Ladies of Colored America—No. 13

MISS MARION ANDERSON, *was born and reared in Philadelphia and from the age of 6 years has been noted as a singer. The Union Baptist Church of Philadelphia established a fund for "Marion Anderson's Future" and later a scholarship was given her by Mrs. Mary Saunders Patterson with whom she studied for a year, subsequently studying 2 years with Miss Agnes Reifsneider. Following this, a fund was raised by friends to enable her to study with the late Guiseppe Boghetti. Her prize-winning appearance at Lewisohn Stadium with the New York Philharmonic orchestra lead to an engagement by the Philadelphia orchestra. She spent a year being coached by Frank LaForge. In the next 4 years she crossed and recrossed the Atlantic, sang at Carnegie Hall and won a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship. In 1935 she capped a sensational two-year circuit of Europe at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, at which time Arturo Toscaninni said "A voice like yours is heard only once in a hundred years." After a successful European, African and American tour she received the Grand Prix Du Chant for the best recorded voice on the Continent. She gave 70 recitals in the U. S. in 1938, a record in concert history. Other records are 75 concerts in more than 60 cities in one season and finally in 1939–40, 92 concerts in 17 cities between November and June. From Howard and Temple universities she has received the honorary Doctor of Music. Her native Philadelphia has conferred upon her the $10,000 Bok award. In 1939 she received the Spingarn medal.*

MRS. MAMIE GEORGE WILLIAMS, distinguished citizen of Savannah, Ga., has served as president of the Georgia State Federated Clubs of Colored Women, Republican national committeewoman for Georgia, organizer and founder of the National League of Republican Colored Women, member of the educational committee of Savannah which is interracial, and founder and organizer of the Chatham County Colored Council which established the Recreational Center of Savannah for colored children. She is founder, organizer and officer of the Toussant L'Overture branch of the Savannah chapter of the American Red Cross. She founded a training school for Negro delinquent girls which came to full realization after many years of work. The school at Macon, Ga., with 160 acres of land cost over $40,000 and is maintained by the State of Georgia. She has served as Grand Worthy Inspectrix of the Court Calanthe of Georgia, is representative and grand trustee of the Daughter Elks of Georgia. For the past 7 years she has served as superintendent of the Chatham Protective Home for Girls, Industrial College, Ga. Through the community chest she has obtained $1,000 annually for the colored children's free clinic of her city.

MRS. DELLA BRIDGES MILLER is a native of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and educated at Wayman institute, Kentucky State college, Simmons university and Teachers' college, Indianapolis, Indiana. She has taught in the schools of Kentucky for more than sixteen years and is active in the National and State Associations of Colored Women, having served as president of the latter organization. Mrs. Miller has held the positions of grand worthy matron of the Order of the Eastern Star and district grand directress of the District Grand Household. She is president of the Belle county branch of the NAACP and is an active leader in the AME church in Middlesborough, Kentucky, where she makes her home with her husband, Dr. I. H. Miller, one of the leading physicians in that section.



MRS. ANNIE WALKER-McDOUGAL, is organizer and director of the Philadelphia Household Occupations Training School, sponsored by the Department of Public Education since 1941. A native of Milstead, Ala., she received her schooling at Tuskegee Institute, Hampton Institute, Comer's Commercial School in Boston, Mass., and Columbia University. For 4 years she was director of home economics in the Negro schools of Asheville, N. C., and for 6 years was director of Girls Work Department in SouthWest-Belmont branch YWCA in Philadelphia. She is a past vice-president and youth counsel director of the local NAACP branch, the secretaryship of which she resigned in 1937 to accept her present position. She is a widely recognized authority in the training of people for household occupations and is a member of the YWCA city board of directors.

"Get 'Em Paid"

(*Continued from page* 301)

sizeable number of Washington arrivals were Negroes.

"Unless the community we were coming to was receptive to proper outlets," said General Gilbert, "I knew that we would have a difficult problem in our hands. Our workers, people with better-than-average education, expected a normal, well-rounded life, and it was up to us to try and obtain it for them, if we were to develop a contented employee family."

A Recreation and Employee Service Section was set up in order to provide recreational programs, help ODB employees fit themselves into the life of the community, and aid them with any personal problems that might arise.

The Essex County Council of Churches welcomed the ODB employees to services of all denominations and to a variety of church functions; lunchtime community sings were scheduled; Friday-night between-shift entertainments planned; a string ensemble came into being; a dramatic group started rehearsing; and specially planned excursions and trips to famous and interesting local spots were made. Notices of all activities are announced in ODB PRESENTS, a house organ.

An Employee Counselor Service was set up whose function is to interview employees presenting difficult personal or personnel problems which prevent them and their co-workers from effectively performing their assigned work. If the problem is a personal one, this unit arranges whatever assistance is found necessary and is desired, such as medical and psychiatric care, day nursery care for children, and other services of this type. If the problem is concerned with the employee's job, then it is the business of this unit to try and solve it. The solution might involve transfer and reassignment within various Branches of the ODB, interpretation of the worker-supervisory relationship, and recommendations for improvements and innovations in working conditions which may directly affect production.

U. S. Army Signal Corps photo

The determinations branch of the War Department Office of Dependency Benefits in Newark, N. J. Here relationship and dependency of soldiers' families are determined in support of applications for family allowances.

Another function of the Unit is to conduct all exit interviews to determine the real reason for the request for separation. If the action is due to the employee's being misplaced in the organization, this too may entail reassignment to another location.

All interviews pertaining to problems of employees are held in strictest confidence, and counselors are available to all employees whether they be on the first or second shift.

A great many of the clerks at the ODB are Negroes and many have very fine records. For example, just recently Mrs. Flora Brown was appointed supervisor of the Key Punch, Stencil Typing, and Stencil Proof Reading Units of the Officer's Section of the Class E Allotment Branch. This promotion was made on the basis of performance, aptitude, and merit. Mrs. Isham Jones is Secretary to the Officer in Charge of the Procurement, Supply, and Maintenance Branch. This is a very important branch and as secretary to the Officer in Charge her duties include assignments of great responsibility. There is Miss Paula McKinney, supervisor in the Determinations Branch—and many others such as Nathaniel Barlow, Joseph Niles, David Licorice, Gertrude Grasty, Dewey Ackis, and William Bates, to mention a few who hold supervisory type positions.

At the Office of Dependency Benefits the executive order "No discrimination' works both ways. Employees need not expect favoritism any more than they need fear discrimination against them. Merit is the governing factor in all dealings.

U. S. Army Signal Corps photo

Major Herbert E. Weifenbach, executive officer of Class E Allotment Branch, reviews work of Ledger Unit 7-3 with check-writing collators in action.

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

Chicken Coop Case: The burning to death of Willie Cooper and Mrs. Odell May, Negro migratory workers, in a barn on the farm of Edward O. Mastin near Quakertown, Pa., on the night of August 17, brought to light near-slavery conditions under which fifty migrant workers from Florida were employed and housed. John Grantham, president of the Lehigh Valley NAACP branch went quickly to the scene and conducted a personal investigation, makink sketches of the small dilapidated chicken coops, seven feet square by five feet high in which the hapless workers were housed with their wives and children. Mr. Grantham reported them unfit for human habitation. The workers told him they were unable to earn enough money for railroad fare away from the place. The fire victims were housed on the third floor of a barn where they were trapped by the flames. One worker suffered a broken back when he leaped from a window, while another was severely burned.

At the coroner's hearing on August 27, Prentice Thomas of the NAACP national legal staff represented the Association. Mastin was held responsible for the death of the two workers. Several families had been quartered in the barn which was filled with hay and other inflammable material and had no fire escapes. It is expected Mastin will be tried in October, but the probable absence of many of the workers (who must return to Florida after picking the tomato crop) will lessen chances for conviction.

Hillburn's Attack on Jim Crow: After tolerating with rising resentment a jim crow school set-up for the past 25 years, Negro parents of Hillburn, N. Y., just 19 miles from New York City, staged a general strike against the school board with a demand for an end to the system. On opening day, 94 of 100 colored children, failed to show up at the jim crow and dilapidated Brook School but they and their parents turned up at the Main School demanding to be registered.

At the request of the Hillburn branch, Attorney Thurgood Marshall, Association special counsel, visited the town on September 8, to find conditions warranting the people's indignation. While the Main School is a modern, eight-room building, provided with library, gymnasium, music room and large playground and is attended by only 54 white children; the Brook School, "for colored", is a 3-room, 45-year-old structure of wood, without hygienic facilities except two outside "privies", no clinic, no gymnasium or library. The dental clinic in the Main School has "colored" days, while school buses to the joint high school at Suffern were segregated, one for Negroes and one for whites, until recent pressure from Negroes eliminated them.

Mr. Marshall escorted one of the children and his mother to Main School where the attempt to register him was rejected.

Protest made by Marshall to the State Board of Education caused it to telegraph President Davidson of the Ramapo Central School Board: "Provision for maintenance of separate schools for colored children repealed by Chapter 134 of Laws of 1938. Necessary for your board to arrange school facilities for both white and colored children without segregation".

Photo by Mosley, Philadelphia

PANCAS PHILADELPHIA BRANCH, 1943: Mamie Brown, Joseph C. Williams, Katie M. Greene, Miss Susan Masseaux, Elmore Marshall, Ollie M. Duncan, Nellie Freeman, Anna M. Pollitt, Jennie Jones, Roy Lightfoot, William C. Wingate, Virgil T. Spaulding, Florida B. Williams, Edna Griffin, Jessie Young, Rosa Watson, Elsie Meredith, Jennie Jeter, Mary Louise Allen, Mary Oakley, Nona Bragg, Alexander Dumas, M. N. Patterson, Marie Davis, Theodore Spaulding, Alvin C. White, Paul H. Jackson, William J. Harvey, 3rd, Henry C. Sparks, Orlando B. Taylor, Edwin Pitts, Benjamin Pitts, Ethel Patience, Robert Patience, Larry Johnson, Eugene Jackson, Edna Williams, Roberta Thompson, Fred Harrod, Richard James, Sam McPherson, Dr. Voight Jones, Edna Collins, Mayme Gorman, Viola Allen, Rufus Lancaster, Carolyn M. Davenport, Walter H. Byrd, Reba Bowie, L. G. Spencer, Andrew Valdez, Lida B. Lee, Gretchen James, Margaret Fortie, Pauline White, Gladys Bowie, James Duckett, Julie Davenport, Walter Baxter, Doris Thomas, Louise Johnson, Elizabeth White, I. F. Waff, Marie Williams, Selwyn T. Beavers, Dr. Thomas Georges, George J. Holland, Arthur T. Lee, James N. Reeves, Richard M. Winston, Samuel D. Holmes, Garfield Myrick, John S. Pitts, Vertelle Gayle, Mary Mosley, Roy Gartrell, Richard America, Ashley M. Jones, E. Finch Morris, W. L. Smith, Saide Anderson, Margie Anderson, R. C. Hayes, Nellie Roulhac, William Mason, John W. Williams, Susie Washington, Charles Hubbard, Raymond Smith, Charles Keith, George Anthony.

Attorney Marshall petitioned the School Board in behalf of the parents, protesting the segregation and discrimination.

Meantime 56 striking children who refused to register at the ram-shackle jim crow school were taught in the Presbyterian Church by Mrs. Osea Van Dunk, Hillburn housewife, and former teacher at the abandoned Brook School. On September 20 Mrs. Alice Avery, a qualified school teacher from Nyack, N. Y. took charge. She will be paid by the NAACP while the Association's appeal to the State Commissioner of Education against the state law violation is being considered.

Redistricting of the school area along lines of residential separation have resulted in 32 Negro children attending the "white" school where they are getting along amicably with their 66 white school mates. Citizens of nearby communities are supporting the Hillburn Negro parents' fight for admittance to the Main School and abandonment of the Brook School. The Rockland County Citizens' Committee telegraphed Governor Thomas Dewey calling the school board's redistricting a violation of the State Bill of Rights and "an unnecessary and unjustified affront to racial understanding and an indulgence of prejudicial customs which are too expensive to maintain." The telegram was signed by playwright Maxwell Anderson, Kurt Weill, composer, and Henry Barnum Poor, painter.

Shacks in which Negro migratory workers were forced to live on the E. O. Mastin tomato farm near Quakertown, Pa. where two Negro workers were burned to death in a barn on August 17.

Jim Crow Uber Alles: In a drive to get recruits for war service, the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Red Cross invited student and graduate nurses to view the film "So Proudly We Hail", a story of war nurses on Bataan displayed at Loew's Capitol Theater in Washington, D. C. The Red Cross invited Negro nurses to attend but the theater management warned that it would insist on its usual policy of barring Negroes. Consequently the proposed pageant was cancelled because the Association had strongly protested to Norman Davis, Chairman of the Red Cross, against the jim crowism. Thus Loew's Capital Theater won an approving nod from Herr Hitler.

These persons were employed through efforts of the Camden, N. J. branch, left to right: Samuel Green, New York Shipyard; Sadie Vincent, Radio Corporation of America; Phyllis Houston, Bell Telephone Co.; John W. Downer, New York Shipyard; Jeanette Stanford, Bell Telephone Co.; and Elizabeth Harris, Radio Corporation of America. The Mesdames Harris and Vincent were the first women employed by the RCA. The Misses Houston and Stanford are the first and only two Negro girls employed by the Bell Telephone Co. in Camden. They work in the clerical department.

California Shipyard Union Dispute: In mid-September the Association filed a brief amicus in a case argued before the N.L.R.B. between the United Steel Workers of America, Machinist Local 1304 (which does not discriminate against Negro workers), and the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council, A. F. of L., many of whose locals ban Negroes. The dispute is to determine which organization is to be the recognized bargaining representative for employees of the Bethlehem Alameda (California) Shipyard and Shipyard Division of the Bethlehem Steel Company. Over 9,000 workers, 40 per cent of them Negroes and other non-whites, are involved.

Emphasizing its identity with labor unions which bar discrimination against Negroes from their policies, the NAACP contended that membership in jim crow auxiliary unions, such as the A. F. of L. council has established, is not real membership because it confers no rights, privileges or security. The Steel Workers Union, which embraces welders, admits all workers to membership without regard to race or color. The N.L.R.B. has consistently ruled against units practicing color discrimination as collective bargaining agents. The Association argued: "on the facts of the instant case, it is submitted that the opportunity which would be afforded to all workmen to enjoy real rights of union membership without racial discrimination by the Welders and Steel Workers, but denied them by the Trades Council, should be one of the controlling factors in favor of the bargaining units and elections therein proposed by the

Welders and Machinists and against the petition of the Trades Council".

Better Late Than Never: A year ago when the NAACP published its pamphlet "Food Costs More in Harlem" which recommended that the Office of Price Administration make use of the devastating facts it contained, the OPA did nothing. Now, a year later and after a destructive and tragic Harlem riot which claimed six lives, destroyed millions of dollars worth of property, and was partly due to resentment against the gouging by neighborhood merchants, the OPA has acted. In a recent release it states that "At the request of the Washington office, especial attention will be given to comparison of compliance with price ceilings between food stores patronized largely by Negroes and those patronized largely by whites", and that "OPA regional offices were directed to begin the food price comparisons on August, to continue until further notice."

ICC Asks $64 Question: Pressed by charges of the NAACP that 200 Negro passengers were compelled to wait 24 hours for northbound accommodations at Rocky Mount, N. C., while white passengers boarded Atlantic Coast Line trains, the Interstate Commerce Commission has asked the railroad to answer the complaint.

War Department Is Adamant: The increasing liberality of the War Department in the direction of mixed training facilities for Negro bombardiers, pilots and navigators, has not reached the point where it is willing to establish the mixed division which the Association has consistently urged. In a letter to the Secretary, John J. McCloy, Acting Secretary of War recently declared, "The suggestion contained in your letter (of July 14) for the formation of mixed units has been considered at various times by the War Department and the decision reached that such action would be inadvisable."

Baltimore Negroes Demand Housing: With 20 per cent of Baltimore's population colored, yet restricted to 7 per cent of available housing, and with Negro war workers entering the city in large numbers weekly, the housing conditions are growing desperate and require immediate remedial action. This was the burden of complaint made by a delegation led by Baltimore Branches of the NAACP and the Urban League which conferred with Jonathan Daniels, Administrative Assistant to the President and Herbert Emmerich, Commissioner of the Federal Public Housing Authority, in Washington recently. Efforts to build housing units for Negroes have been fought by prejudiced Baltimore white groups and individuals, including Senator Millard E. Tydings (D. Md.) and Congressman H. Street Baldwin (D. Md.).

Branch News

Colorado: The Pueblo branch held a meeting on September 5 at the Eighth Street Baptist Church. Miss Almer Bryant, the president, was chairman.

Idaho: Roy Ferguson, formerly secretary of the Iowa State Conference and secretary of the Des Moines branch was recently appointed to the administrative staff in the personnel department at the U. S. Maritime Training Station at Sheepshead Bay, N. Y. A practicing lawyer, he is a graduate of Drake University Law School and prior to entering the service was state advisor on Negro affairs for the National Youth Administration.

Illinois: On September 19 the Chicago branch opened a campaign to raise $25,000 and obtain 25,000 new members. The drive was opened with a mass meeting at Wendell Phillips High School auditorium. Fifteen divisions, each comprising 10 teams of 20 members each, participated in the drive.

Kansas: The Coffeyville branch opened the last half of its membership drive on August 22 with Raymon Reynolds, Topeka attorney, as the principal speaker.

Louisiana: The State Conference of the NAACP met in Lake Charles, La. at the Woodbury Congregational Church on August 8 with 150 delegates. The chairman was Daniel E. Byrd of New Orleans, president of the State Conference. Another speaker was Rev. H. H. Dunn of New Orleans who advocated the formation of international committees. The host was Rev. A. G. Washington who emphasized the value of international cooperation. Other speakers were Rev. W. C. Clark, Lake Charles, attorney A. P. Teiraud, New Orleans, C. A. Pemilton, New Iberia, Huston Dutton, Lake Charles and E. W. Johnson, Alexandria. The delegates agreed to establish a headquarters in New Orleans to extend the work of the Association in other sections of the state and to publish a monthly bulletin. It was agreed to conduct periodical campaigns for members and educational funds and to focus attention on securing the exercise of the ballot, equal pay for qualified teachers and the improvement of educational facilities for Negro children in rural and suburban centers.

Ohio: The Ohio convention of the NAACP was held in Columbus on September 25 and 26.

Michigan: The Detroit branch has asked Gov. Harry F. Kelly to appoint a Negro judge to fill the vacancy in Circuit Court by the death of Judge Harry Kerdan.

New Jersey: F. G. Fenderson, acting secretary of the local NAACP branch has asked municipal action against alleged disorderly houses in the colored section which are passed daily by 130 children on their way to the Court Street School and 1,000 children on their way to high school.

New York: The quarterly meeting of the NAACP State Conference took place in Troy on September 25, 26 at Liberty Street Presbyterian Church. The chairman was Frank E. Jenkins, president of the Troy branch. Mrs. Bertha Dickerson was named as NAACP representative on the Troy Consumers Problems Committee which will attempt to combat violations of price ceilings and black market operations.

Oklahoma: On Labor Day the Perry branch held a picnic at West Park. The committee in charge of arrangements included John Jenkins, Taylor McNeal and Abraham Sears. The attendance was large.

Pennsylvania: A meeting of the senior forum of the Williamsport branch was held on Sunday, September 5 when P. D. Mitchell, executive secretary of the Bethume-Douglass Center was guest speaker.

Virginia: A meeting was held on September 22 in Corprew's Forum in Portsmouth, Va. to revive the local NAACP branch.

West Virginia: The Triadelphia chapter of the NAACP accepted an invitation from the leading citizens of Mallory to render a special NAACP membership program on September 12 at Union Church in Logan, West Va. Invitation notices were sent to many surrounding towns and camps.

California: The Santa Clara County NAACP branch held a public meeting in the First Congregational Church on September 12. The speaker was Assemblyman Augustus Hawkins, Los Angeles. The meeting opened a 3-month membership drive for 500 new members. Mrs. Amelia McBride is president.

Louisiana: The Baton Rouge branch celebrated the "Annual NAACP Day" on the 4th Sunday in August at the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. The main address was given by Mr. Leon Wallace of the Unity Life Insurance Company. On this occasion, $76.11 was realized from the sale of tags.

Connecticut: The John Brown Club of Torrington, Conn., held an NAACP meeting on July 25 at which time 61 members and $115.50 in cash were secured. Mr. Madison Jones, secretary of the Bridgeport YMCA and former youth secretary of the NAACP was principal speaker.

Ohio: The newly organized Oxford, Ohio branch held its first mass meeting in August. The president, Mrs. Winifred Herd, presented the charter and introduced the principal speaker, attorney Theodore Berry of Cincinnati.

Florida: The State Conference of branches is holding its 4th annual meeting in West Palm Beach October 15, 17. An appeal has been issued to the Florida branches asking financial assistance for the Tampa branch in its defense of Edgar Flowers. It has exchanged correspondence with the governor's office relative to the recent lynching of Cellos Harrison near Marianna, Florida.

New Jersey: The Camden NAACP branch is launching its annual membership campaign on November 7 under the leadership of Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, NAACP field secretary. It is hoped to double the number of members enrolled in last year's campaign. The branch has performed yeoman service in obtaining positions for Negroes in local industries. Under Lillian Goings, chairman of the educational committee, a series of public meetings has been sponsored to acquaint people with the aims and purposes of the NAACP.

Pennsylvania: The recent Philadelphia NAACP membership campaign netted 6,294 members and $9,574.25. The top producer was the Dorie Miller division under Selwin T. Beavers which brought in 444 members and $664.25. The winner of the women's honors was the Phyllis Wheatley division headed by Katie M. Greene. Reba Boure's team produced the highest number of members in the women's divisions with 545 members and $985.

Walter White, NAACP executive secretary, was guest speaker at the James Welden Johnson memorial program presented by the **Philadelphia Tribune**, the local branch and the management of the James Welden Johnson Homes on Thursday, June 17. Among the speakers were Mrs. James Wel-

den Johnson, Richmond Barthe, E. Washington Rhodes, and Mrs. Laura Wheeler Waring.

Youth Council News

The Call has been issued to the Fifth Annual Student Conference of NAACP College Chapters, which is to convene at Lincoln University, Chester County, Pennsylvania, October 29-31, 1943. The invitation is extended to all Colleges, Negro and White, to NAACP Youth Councils, and to all organizations and persons interested in Youth activities.

The students will meet at a time of crisis to take positive and definite action toward an approach to the solution of problems confronting them in Economic Security, Education, and Citizenship. They will seek to devise ways and means to mobilize the strength, enthusiasm and organized power of college students to carry out their plan and to develop personal interest in the problems affecting the Negro in America through leadership training for the men and women of tomorrow.

Registration will begin at noon on Friday, October 29th. Walter White, Executive Secretary of the NAACP will deliver the keynote address at 8 o'clock that evening. Reception for the delegates will begin at 10 P.M. The sessions beginning at 10 A.M. on Saturday will be devoted to discussions led by:

Dean William H. Hastie of Howard Law School, Member of NAACP Board of Directors.
Dr. Luther P. Jackson, Professor of History, Virginia State College.
Guichard Parris, formerly Regional Director, NYA.
Ella J. Baker, Director of Branches, NAACP.
Charles Douds, Regional Director, National Labor Relations Board.
John A. Davis, Director of Review and Analysis, FEPC.
Samuel A. Rosenburg, Division of History, Hampton Institute.
Dr. Lawrence P. Reddick, Curator, Schomburg Collection, N. Y. C.
Jean Muir, Cinema Actress.
Thurgood Marshall, Special Counsel, NAACP.
Dean Flemmie P. Kittrell, Dean of Women, Hampton Institute.

The Conference Dance will follow an assembly to which Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary NAACP and Editor of the Crisis will speak on Saturday night.

The Business session will be held on Sunday morning preceding the Chapel Service which will be conducted by Dr. Channing Tobias, Secretary of the YMCA and Member of the Board of Directors, NAACP.

Ruby Hurley, Youth Secretary will speak to the closing assembly on Sunday afternoon.

Youth Council Activities

Newark, N. J.: Plans for a play begun last Spring will be continued this Fall. Upon completion the soldiers stationed at Port Newark will be guests at the presentation.

Bridgeton, N. J.: The Youth Council presented a musicale at the Pentecostal Church during the summer and a radio program was presented over station WSNJ. Discussion of Negro history, Negro problems, manners and etiquette are given serious consideration at the meetings and chorus singing blends variety to the program.

Officers of the Council are: Dr. Leonard G. Scott, director; Miss Marcella Piease, assistant director; Mr. Oliver Miles, president; Miss Bertha Greene, secretary; Miss Winefred Graves, treasurer; Miss Ada Cooper, chaplain; and Miss Gwendolyn Calli, assistant chaplain.

Montclair, N. J.: An educational program for the benefit of High School Students, a guidance program for youth entering High School, and tutoring classes for the tenth grade students are included in the program of activities. The Council's monthly publication, "Quest" is a source of interesting and stimulating material for the members and their friends.

Boston, Mass.: Officers of the youth council are M. Phyllis Mitchell, president; Victor Yancey, vice-president; Ruth Paine, corresponding secretary; Julia Mitchell, recording secretary; Gertrude Wilson, financial secretary; Frances Ross, treasurer. Young people are taking an enthusiastic interest in the work of the NAACP, and have pledged active cooperation in the Fall program.

Bakersfield, California.: During a recent membership campaign 34 young people were secured to effect reorganization of the council under the sponsorship of Mrs. E. Drisdom. A successful meeting was held at the U.S.O. and James Benajmin was elected chairman of the youth drive.

Louisville, Ky. (East End): Activities over a period included forums, a symposium of ministers of the community, a rummage sale, and a birthday dance. Mrs. Nan Rodgers is sponsor; Mr. Ainslie Kenzer, president; and Mrs. Minnie Larkin, secretary.

Louisville, Ky. (West End): Letters were sent in regard to the Poll Tax bill and the local Bus situation. Books were collected and donated to the U.S.O. Speakers discussed education and health at the meetings. Mrs. L. N. Sedwick is the sponsor, Miss Minnie Harrison, president; and Miss Mary Ann Woolfolk, secretary.

Indianapolis, Ind.: Negroes are admitted to local theaters as a result of pressure brought to bear by the youth council in cooperation with the local Branch. Violations of ceiling prices were reported, discussed and investigated in collaboration with the OPA. Mrs. Ophelia Clark is president; Miss Sarah Alexander, secretary; and Mrs. Ollie M. Weeks, sponsor. Gilbert Trimble, Jr. and Earl Warton are two members serving in the Armed Forces.

A mid-summer formal was given at the home of Mrs. Priscilla Dean Lewis with the theme "Back To College". Youth members returning to college and their guests were treated to a lovely repast served amid an array of red rose buds, the club's flowers.

New Britain, Conn.: The Youth Secretary set up temporary organization of the council which expects to send in application for a charter in the next few weeks. Nathaniel Ford, Wilhelmina Davis and Cleveland Jackson were elected temporary officers.

At a meeting on Sunday, August 29th, all adult persons present declared themselves already members of the NAACP and all young people present joined or pledged to join. The housing condition is an immediate problem of the community and protests have been made to the City Council.

SPEECHES WRITTEN

We specialize in the criticism, rewriting, and ghost-writing of speeches and sermons for every occasion. Prompt, scholarly, individual, and confidential service.

Write: Marcus H. Boulware
The State Teachers College
Montgomery, Alabama

Increases in Memberships

Boston, Mass. Youth Council 63; Bridgeton, N. J. 25; Chicago, Ill, 21; New York Manhattan Council 7; Jamaica, N. Y. 6; and Indianapolis, Ind. 3.

Application for Charter: Clairton, Pennsylvania.

Charters Granted: Kokomo, Ind. and Riverside, California.

Personalities

Indianapolis, Ind.: James Wadsworth, Jr. won high honors in bookkeeping and history. **Hobbies:** tennis, bowling, baseball and basketball. He attended West Va. State College last year and will attend Virginia State College this term. **Ambition:** to become an Accountant.

Ruth Higgins, attends Fisk University. Won First Aid honors. **Hobbies:** dancing, medical research, reading and collecting foreign stamps. **Ambition:** to be a Doctor.

New York City: Muriel Parris, former student of George Washington High School and YMCA Business School. **Ambition:** to be a legal secretary. **Hobbies:** social dancing, bicycle riding, and swimming.

Evelyn Lee, student of George Washington High School. **Ambition:** to become a great opera singer. **Hobby:** collecting coins.

Book Review

BENVENUTO CELLINI HAD NO PREJUDICE AGAINST BRONZE

—Letters from West Africans LXVI plus 176 pp. Edited and published by Anna Melissa Graves.

(May be ordered from the editor and publisher, Miss Graves, P. O. Box 308, Westminster, Maryland. Price $2.00 postpaid.) This comparatively small volume has two values. It might well have been developed into two books, but we must be grateful that Miss Graves has brought together the two seemingly distinct contributions.

The first value of the book is in the revelation of the antiquity of that contribution which luminous individuals of the Negro ethnic group have made to the advance of culture through the ages, and also the revelation that a culture compounded of the contributions of members of a great ethnic group—the Negroes of the Sudan—in many fields is precisely of the kind and quality that has distinguished the history of all the other great peoples.

Intuitively we feel that human nature is one, but in a cultural pattern whose very basis is so widely racial prejudice, a need is served in bringing to the attention of our hatred-ridden society the story of so exalted a personage as Akhnaton. In this colored man was a refinement, a sensitivity, a versatility, a broad appreciation, and a facility in self expression, that will rank him forever among the greatest of mankind. How little we know of him, and how few Negroes, old or young, feel the power of such an inheritance. By bringing this man into the light, and building up from him her brief story of the skills, the organizations and the unbelievable trials and denials of the African people, Miss Graves very clearly fulfills the task she set for herself, that is to prove the oneness and identity of our common humanity.

For long generations the exploiting, slave trading nations kept out of their books the story of the great culture centers of the Sudan built up in Melle, at Goa, Jenne and Timbuc-

too, of Sonni Ali's and Askia's Songhay Empire, of the black university at Timbuctoo and of Abou Bekr, the saint and scholar. Business, invention, art, war, history, philosophy, government, religion, poetry—all these and more Miss Graves conjures back to our remembrance as a rich inheritance, glorious in the history of the Negro. It is a story that should be known to all those who think the Negro has no history but that of slavery.

The second value of the book is in the letters from native Africans, faithfully reproduced as responses to letters, which unfortunately we are not privileged to see, written by Miss Graves herself. Here is direct insight into the spiritual struggles of Africans of today. Striving, escape, achievement, defeat—all these are common to every purposeful human being whatever his race, color, or geographical location. The African surely is no exception. What a revelation of inward conflict, purpose, determination and will power the letters of Mrs. Casely-Hayford set out, and who could read without warm response that record of the baffled spirit and unfulfilled ambition of her gifted artist daughter, Gladys. In Mr. Kisseadoo and Mr. Yudu Sié we have the same kind of epistolary revelation of the bitter plight of the subject, oppressed minority in inward conflict with all the power, the subtleties, indirections and cruelties of empire. It may be that in letters one reveals oneself as in no other manner. Miss Graves has been an indefatigable, stimulating correspondent, uncompromising in her determination to stand everywhere for the equality of colored people, whatever the cost to herself. She has heroically persisted in her effort to help Negroes in Africa and elsewhere to the recognition they deserve. One Anna Melissa Graves is worth hundreds of those who claim to love freedom, but deny that brotherhood of man, which she long ago discovered and has ever since proclaimed. It is good for our souls that such a woman lives and moves among us.

This book has come at a most auspicious hour, and should be read by all those who seek an insight into the deeply entrenched will of the powers that be to keep the upward-struggling darker peoples of the earth "in their places".

DR. LESLIE PINCKNEY HILL

Quiescence

Reluctantly, spent summer goes to sleep;
Her blooms are full-blown now, her laughter deep.
Intrepid autumn roves the gladless globe,
In crimson cap and tawny, velvet robe;
At dawn she dances on an emerald hill;
Her russet slippers flash with grace and skill;
At noon she loiters in the dust-strewn lane
And swings her censer at the slothful rain.
Reluctantly, spent summer goes to sleep;
Her blooms are full-blown now, her laughter deep.

—GLADYS MITCHELL

Sonnet to Youth

Youth of the conquered lands, awake, arise!
Although your lot seems hopeless, there is hope;
Fling off the yoke, recapture freedom's prize!
What is the task with which you cannot cope?
What brutal force can garrison the heart,
Or crush the zeal that cries for liberty,
Or break the will you've nourished from the start
To breathe again the air that's fresh and free?
Youth of America, youth of the world!
Who have not bowed to bomb and bayonet,
Dictator's die is cast, the challenge hurled;
Make haste ere freedom's failing sun has set.
Arise and meet the challenge face to face—
Look for no miracles, no Caesar's grace!

—MARK FISHER

Citizen CIO

(*Continued from page* 300)

position on racial discrimination to the press, to government and industry, as well as among the rank-and-file of CIO people. He takes a stern hand when international unions find it necessary to discipline union locals and members who rebel when Negroes are given their full upgrading and seniority rights. He insists that CIO locals take the lead in securing equal rights on the job for Negro members.

Regional, state and local councils in CIO as well as local unions have set up committees on fair employment practices and race relations. A further safeguard against racial discrimination is the election of Negroes to serve as stewards, shop committeemen, and as members of bargaining committees, labor-management and grievance committees.

However, CIO's Committee To Abolish Racial Discrimination is opposed to any form of departmental segregation because it "continues misunderstanding and lack of sympathy between the two races."

George Weaver warns that management often attempts to use the Negro as a pawn in management-labor controversies. Sometime the Negroes become a football in local union politics. "In most of the cases that the CIO Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination has investigated, we have found one of the above factors present, in some instances both," he reports.

Meeting the Problem

Weaver has revealed the manner in which this problem has been met. At the Timken Roller Plant in Canton, Ohio, for instance, twenty-seven Negroes were suddenly upgraded by management without warning or system. The foremen and shop stewards were not consulted, and the department picked for this experiment was relatively new. The white workers, most of whom had been recently imported from the South, all had less than two years' union experience.

"The results were a foregone conclusion," Weaver relates in an article in the Michigan CIO News. "A checkback on the labor-management relations record indicated that their labor policies were bad and they had fought the union bitterly, step by step. The obvious conclusion was that management hoped to create an additional problem with the racial issue."

The union, this case the United Steelworkers, insisted that Negroes entitled to promotion remain in the upgraded positions. The company, realizing that it could not embarrass the union by these tactics, receded and demoted the Negroes.

This act by the management brought a second walkout, this time on the part of the Negroes. But the union and the Government settled the question by insisting that those entitled to the upgraded positions retain their promotions.

The union has carried its fight against racial discrimination into the Government. It is represented on F.E.P.C. by John Brophy, CIO's Director of Industrial Councils.

CIO is doing vigorous work in teaching its own members that whites and Negroes can work together harmoniously—and is proving it by day-to-day developments. During the Detroit riots, for instance, there was no trouble in any of the shops where white men and Negroes worked on the assembly line. Nor did fighting flare up in the neighborhoods where both races live peaceably together on the same city block. Rioting broke out in the segregated neighborhoods—the so-called "white spots" and the "black pockets." CIO took a lead in exposing the causes of the riots and in calling for immediate action to remedy those causes and to avoid future outbreaks.

This is the trend in the progressive wing of the organized labor movement today. The Negro is not without white allies in his struggle for equality.

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The Liberian State Visit

(*Continued from page* 298)

May 26, a follow-up of the negotiations which Mr. Walker had undertaken in March, was made, in Washington, while enroute, at the hotel, and at the hospital. The lend-lease agreement was signed on June 8 at Mr. Barclay's bedside.

Now Liberia is not a member of the United Nations. The country has never declared war on the Axis. It is classified as an associate nation, a benevolent neutral. But it has given valuable service to the Allied cause, and so warranted the benefits of lend-lease. Under the agreement signed, Liberia asked for financing of new roads—approximately $600,000 worth. The harbor installation, involving as it would an expenditure of a few millions of dollars, was not requested despite the importance of this vital auxiliary to the roadways. A participant in the negotiations commented to me one day rather quizzically that he did not know why the harbor had not been requested under the agreement. I do not believe that Liberia would not have welcomed the construction of the harbor under the agreement. It is concluded, therefore, that either they were not permitted to request it owing to a considerably weakened bargaining position due to the turn of events; or, that the American government was unwilling to commit itself, through lend-lease, to such a large capital undertaking.

The normal annual budget of the African republic is about $1,000,000. The question of repayment for the project was raised, and the Liberians proposed that this be done out of anticipated customs levies that would be derived from use of the harbor by ships in world commerce. The project has not been abandoned entirely. United States Army engineers are studying three possible sites. The job may yet be done but hardly under the lend-lease agreement as matters now stand.

An interesting, and possibly indicative, sidelight may be found in the fact that expected shipments of certain materials promised in March had not been made up to June. This occasioned the preparation by the Liberian government of a memorandum to Harry Hopkins, Lend-Lease Administrator, urging him to "speed performance." That there has been dilly-dallying does not necessarily represent the feeling of the President. It could very likely be the result of influence in the lower echelons of government—State Department or Lend-Lease Administration.

Liberia is interested also in the development of its natural resources. The small annual budget would seem to limit the extent of Liberian initiative. I do not know whether the lend-lease agreement promises aid in this

direction. President Barclay is receptive to the introduction of some American capital providing it is not used to exploit the country for selfish ends. America is interested in the potentialities of Liberia. The State Department has publicly alluded to the inclusion of Liberia in the orbit of America's security. A representative of our government even now is in Liberia surveying the resources of that country for the purpose of acquiring needed materials for the war effort, and looking to promise for the future. So much for the economics of the visit.

Negro Pride Stimulated

The official announcement that the President of Liberia would pay a State visit to this country immediately stimulated an immense pride and an unexplainable hope in almost every American Negro who had a thought on the subject. Former President C. D. B. King was the last Liberian of importance to visit this country. That was in 1919. His mission, financial in character, failed. President Elie Lescot of the Republic of Haiti, largely Negro but with a strong French flavoring, made an unofficial visit to the United States in 1942 but did not get the pomp and ceremony—or publicity—accorded Barclay.

The pride felt by Negroes was that Barclay was a Negro, one who might have hailed from the West Indies; Justice Tubman might have been born in South Carolina; and Captain Russ might have claimed Florida as his home state. Unofficial advance stories informed Negro readers that President Barclay was expected. Only the Negro chauffeur of a government car in which I was riding when the motorcade went down to Fort Belvoir was in doubt. He wanted to know of what "liberry" was this Barclay president.

The unexplainable hope Negroes felt was that this important personage, being one of us and having the ear of nations, would speak out for darker peoples the world over. To date, no one of stature and of Negro blood had appeared here who could so capably and justifiably place the case as President Barclay. After having heard him register the shortest address on record—31 words, extemporaneous at that—from the greatest soapbox in the world, the floor of the United States Senate, and say nothing more than "hell-o"; after having listened to him tell a Negro audience of luncheon guests in Washington that "we (all Negroes) are a working race", and two paragraphs later relieve himself with the declaration that he does not ever "emphasize the question of race" but rather "country and achievement", I was moved on June 3 to write a friend:

> " . . . not yet has the visiting President said or done anything to which black folk of America, eager and hopeful that he would, may find justification and capital in his visit."

It was then, and is now, my firm belief that, as an associate nation strongly supporting the Allied cause, Liberia might have with justice interpreted to the world the ambitions of darker peoples in terms of the Four Freedoms, and still have maintained international perspective without once embarrassing his host by dealing with strictly national affairs here at home. Indeed, there were those who would have enjoyed hearing him denounce lynching, the poll tax, and discrimination because of race. Understandably, he could not have done this with any propriety, and should not have been expected to do so.

What he could have done, and did not, was to speak for Liberians (who happen to be Negro), particularly when he stood before the Congress of the United States. The string of visitors before him did no less, as the

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statement of King George II of Greece will bear out when he served notice that "the preservation of freedom is not the obligation of any single people" and that "the base rock of international understanding and the cornerstone for cooperation between free men in the world to come" is a simple truth. By those few well-chosen words, he announced to the world that Greece was making its reservation at the peace table.

Nine formal and informal luncheons and dinners failed to elicit anything vaguely approximating a statement intended for world ears. A regrettable commentary also is the fact that, except for the address in Philadelphia, all others were extemporaneous expressions of joy.

A few shapers of thinking among American Negroes have declared that the race ought to have representation at the peace table. There are three ways in which this objective might be achieved, two of which are unlikely. They are, first, the appointment of a Negro to the American delegation to the Peace Conference because of race; and, two, the appointment of a Negro because he is qualified to perform the job.

Liberia's Opportunity

The third alternative, and most probable approach, is through the offer and acceptance of the responsibility to speak for Negroes—or darker peoples—by a government predominantly made up of Negroes. I am loath to believe that Haiti would accept this responsibility. Ethiopia would be compelled to respond to the British influence in light of the yet unsettled—and very disturbing—Indian question. The Batista government of Cuba has "gone white". And Brazil is much more concerned about the "Good Neighbor" policy and the maintenance of good relations with the United States than it is about relieving pressure on colored peoples of the world. Liberia, apparently, is the elected one if she would accept the role.

Before returning to Washington after sixteen days in the company of the party, I was the dinner guest of Justice Tubman. President Barclay was still confined. Mr. Tubman knew what I wanted to hear him say. He is a folksy sort of person, very likeable and quite convivial. After dinner he authorized a statement which said in part:

"It is my considered opinion that the Republic of Liberia is the exponent of the possibilities of Negroes of the world at self-government, and that any dereliction or failure on our part in these respects would mean disaster to Negroes everywhere in the world."

I have repeatedly read these words trying to milk from them the implications that most Negroes, I believe, would like to see. The sum total of this effort is my understanding that Liberia is the laboratory for government by Negroes. Indeed, that is a welcome responsibility albeit of a passive sort. What is wanted, what is needed, however, is an active champion with not only the eyes but the ears of the world fastened upon it.

One other observation should be made. It is my conviction that the handling of the visit would have benefited materially from the treatment it could have been given by supplementary agencies, primarily in the field of public relations. The State Department's division of protocol saw that certain amenities were dutifully observed, as it should have done, but it was not incumbent upon the division to guarantee the success or effectiveness of the "show". Public liaison was unbelievably bad for so noteworthy an occasion, and the visit suffered accordingly.

As for the wangling of concessions, it is not a matter of blame. Immaturity in international statecraft on the part of the Liberian principals doing business on the major league circuit was an incongruous situation at best. The circumstance of Dakar was history; North Africa was the fait accompli. And despite what is currently being said about the desirability of international cooperation, the millenium has not yet arrived. It is the announced hope of the United Nations and the small group of associated nations that international integrity may one day represent something more than just a phrase in the glossary of world politics.

As for Liberia's role in behalf of darker peoples, there is yet hope. That nation anticipates the opening of a legation in Washington sometime in the not too distant future. It will represent the first **real** diplomatic channel it has ever had here. It will afford also the opportunity to get before this nation, and in time the world, the Liberian viewpoint. It is conceivable that the viewpoint of the Liberian people may coincide with or run parallel to the normal aspirations of the world's colored peoples. That remains to be seen.

So Softly Smiling

(*Continued from page* 302)

"Sometimes coming back from a raid in the dawn," he told her that night, emotion fingering the edges of his voice, "I'd look up at the reddening sky and feel that all the earth was consuming itself in fire and only heaven would be left; and I'd want so much to be in love, I'd ache with it.

And she whispered in reply, "If I could be that; if I could be heaven and always have you."

After that, nothing was real. It was fantasy, ecstasy, dread and apprehension. It was glory. They went to live in her apartment, and did not need a thing. Neither people nor food nor sleep. Nor the world. Because there was too much of each other within the hours that they would never have.

And the days passed through this enchanted unreality, wired-together and meteoric. There were twenty-six; then there were twenty-five. But each day was filled to overflowing and could not hold it all; and always some spilled into the day following.

In twenty-three days; and then twenty-two.

They barricaded themselves behind illusion and fought against it in the manner of two small children playing house.

They were riding down Fifth Avenue atop a bus, and she was saying. "A month is long enough to stay in Harlem. Next month we'll spend with my folks in Springfield, Ohio. You'll love my mother." Laughing, she added. "She's a Seventh Day Adventist, by way of description."

"I've got some remote relatives in Chicago, too, whom we can visit for a time," he said, catching the spirit of the fantasy, "although my parents are both dead."

"And after that we can wander lazily to the coast. Have you ever been to Los Angeles?" she asked.

He shook his head.

"It's good for a month, too. And I'll

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He quickly interrupted, "What war?" and they laughed.

"It's funny how you can grow past things so quickly," she observed, surprised. "Ten days ago I was a rather self-centered poet who prided herself on being remote—and now I feel as if that was another life."

"It was," he said. And then quickly, almost fearfully, she vowed, "But I'll never grow past you. When you're gone . . ."

She caught herself, but it was too late.

This was it; he was going back, and she was staying here.

"I used to ask myself," he confessed, "'What have I got in this war? Let the white people fight their own war—I've got nothing to win.' And then I read where some one said, perhaps it was Walter White or Randolph, that America belonged to the Negro as much as it did to anyone. And I got a funny feeling, maybe it was pride, or ownership—I don't know. Anyway I enlisted. And then one day the 'old man' called us in and said, 'We're it.'"

He was silent for a time, looking at the passing sights, and when she did not speak, he went on, trying to explain something:

"I-I don't know just when it started, but I got to feeling that I was fighting for the Four Freedoms. Maybe I had to feel it; maybe I had to feel that it was a bigger fight than just to keep the same old thing we've always had. But it got to be big in my mind—bigger than just fighting a war. It got to be more like building, well, building security and peace and freedom for everyone.

"And—and, what I mean," he stumbled on, "is we don't have to hide from it. It's got to be building for freedom and it's got to be so big and wide there'll be room in it for happiness, too."

(*Continued on page* 316)

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So Softly Smiling

(*Continued from page* 315)

She said an odd thing. "We're going to have a son." Because she knew that in these things there was this—which no one could take—this going on of life, which gave to everything else purpose, meaning, a future.

"How do you know?" he asked, startled.

"How could we miss?" she countered.

And they were laughing again, so wonderfully happy. But even a song could bring it back, a voice from the radio singing the half-forgotten words: *Leaves are falling and I am recalling* . . . Because this was so young, so alive, so biological; this was for a togetherness throughout eternity.

It was there the night Bill and Louise threw the party for them, although that was one of the happiest days they ever knew. But for a time they forgot about it; they felt almost as if they had it beaten.

All the old bunch was there, you know their names. Louise made mint julips and they danced a little and flirted with each others' wives and then began a discussion on political interpretations, which ended with Ted telling the story of *Barker Brown*. Then Henry told the one about the two whales and the "cracker" . . . '"You mean to say you ain't never seen a *cracker?*', the old whale asked the baby whale . . ." Not to be outdone, Walter told the tale of the ghost of Rufus Jones which came back to earth in the body of a white man and was elected to governor of Mississippi. But the colored folks knew he was old Rufus Jones.

They were having such a wonderful time that Eddie suggested that they do it over again at his flat next month. "How is it with you and Roy, Mona?" he asked.

How was it?

It was on top of them, that is how it was. In thirteen days he was going back to Africa to fight for a democracy he never had; it was reality . . . And then in twelve . . .

The togetherness which was meant to be would be gone . . . In eleven days . . . And then in ten . . . It hung over their heads, staining every moment with a blind, futile desperation, beneath which everything was distorted and magnified out of proportion to its importance, so that now things began to hurt which before would not have mattered, and minor incidents which should have sunk beneath a kiss now grew into catastrophes.

It was that way when he met Earl Henry and Bill Peters who had gone to Chicago university with him. Earl was a cavalry lieutenant, and Pete, sporting the wings of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, said, "I'm an eagle now, sonny."

A reunion was in order, so they found a pleasant little bar on 116th Street.

Roy intended to call Mona from the first, knowing that she would be expecting him home, and would worry. But a slightly tipsy celebrant was monopolizing the house telephone, making up with a girl whom, judging from the phrazes which drifted Roy's way, he had promised to take some place and hadn't. Roy got change from the barman so as to use the booth telephone; but the barman served the second round of drinks first—you know how those things happen—and then Pete was telling a joke about an Alabama senator and a Negro minister that was good enough to pass on. When he did stand up and start toward the telephone, Earl caught him by the sleeve, and—

". . . literally forced me to listen," he was telling Mona as the reason he was late.

"And then the third round of drinks was served and I—I proposed a toast to the loveliest woman in all the world."

But in between there had been a moment when he had not thought of her, and this she sensed—this was important.

When she did not smile, he knew that it was there, something pregnant with a hurt; and it was then his words took on the tone of explanation, "I wouldn't, for anything in the world, have stayed if I had thought you would have minded in the least, darling."

Not enough sleep, lack of proper eating, and living each instant on the brink of desperation with the end of their togetherness always there, even on the lips of a kiss, impelled her to say, against her will, "But you could have called, darling, knowing how I would worry—"

"But, sweetheart, I intended to. I had the nickel in my hand—"

"I understand, darling . . ." Pushing from inside of her . . . "I *want* you to be with your friends . . ." Out of the vacuum left by her relief at seeing him . . . "Sometimes I think we have been together too much . . ." Out of the hours pacing the floor with ragged nerves gouging her like rusted nails . . . "But couldn't you have taken a moment to telephone. If I did not love you so, I would not have been so worried."

He began again, "I wanted to, I intended to—" He spread his hands, pleading, "Can't you understand? Won't you believe me? What is it, sweetheart? I—I—"

Pushing and pushing, up through the congested tears in her throat, out between her quivering lips, "If you had wanted to, you would have, Roy, darling. It's because you weren't thinking of me that you didn't; and when you stopped thinking about me, it was not the same anymore. When—when you can forget me in a crowd, it—it isn't what we thought; because it's knowing that I am always in your heart that keeps me p-punching."

They were there, suddenly, a wall of words between them.

"I-I had—" he could not say it again. That live-wire edge of futility building up, and now this wall of words that it had built. But courage was needed, patience, understanding; understanding most of all. And he tried again, smoothing out his exasperation with superhuman will, "Sweetheart, can we talk about it tomorrow? Can we—don't you think we should go to bed tonight? We're both upset. If we could sleep a little in—in—" he paused, and then went on, "I mean, it—it might make a difference, don't you think?"

Without moving, he moved toward her, as if to take her in his arms. And without moving, she moved away.

"Don't you understand what I am saying, Roy?" Pushing and pushing—oh, Dear God, please stop me . . . "Don't you?" . . . Pushing . . .

Her words were like steady shots. Is this how it would feel? A weird relation of thoughts. Could death be worse than this? . . . Echoing in his brain with the shallow faintness of distance: *"Don't you?"*

Now between them the words were gone, engulfing them in unbearable emptiness; and then the upsurge of overwhelming hurt. So tangible he shook great waves of it from his head in a violent reflex gesture, and yet other waves surged over him. They were

(*Continued on page* 318)

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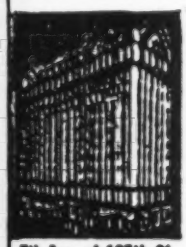

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So Softly Smiling

(*Continued from page* 316)

caught and being carried along, swiftly, blindly; and in her fear, instinctively, she reached out for his hand.

JUST that touch, just the touch of hands, and they were safe again; they were in each other's arms and she was crying, "I didn't mean it, darling. Honestly, I didn't mean it."

"I'm a rat," he said hoarsely. "How can you love such a rat as I?"

No, not eventful like the winning of a battle, nor dramatic like the downing of a plane; but to two people in this peopled world, it was a crossing into permanence, a bridging of the gap into immortality, which in the final analysis makes the *human* race the supreme race. For now, togetherness would always be; no matter the war, which had to be fought and won. No matter death, which was but another crossing. There would always be togetherness—always—because they had gotten over.

And suddenly, they began to plan the future.

"We'll buy a farm," he said. "A tiny one just big enough for us. I'll send every cent of my salary home."

"And while you're building us peace and freedom and security, I'll be building our home," she added. "A rambling, old-fashioned, comfortable house out of old stones. I will build it with my hands. And—"

And underneath their rainbow, like planes flying low over the desert, the days moved westward. There were six, and then there were five.

They caught a bus and went upstate and selected a plot of four acres and made a deal with the real estate brokerage; and the next day they consulted an architect in Harlem and pored over blueprints.

"We'll have the nursery here," she said. "It'll catch the sun all day. And out back—"

"We'll plant an orchard," he supplemented. "Pears and peaches—"

"And apples—"

"And we'll have a swing."

"Over here will be your den and when you're a famous attorney you can say—"

"We'll plant flowers," he cut in.

"Of course. Down beside the walk and here in front on both sides. Floral firecrackers and golden stars and hyacinths and—"

"I'll come through Holland on the way home and bring the tulips back," he said. "Pink and white and . . ."

And then there were none . . .

"I'm simply crazy about you, darling," she was telling him. "Remember that most. Remember that I love everything you do, the color of your skin, the way you walk, the way you carry your shoulders so high and bravely; the way you sometimes say 'not particularly so' and 'I mean; well, what I mean,' and the little habit you have of dipping your head and running your hand across your hair when you are thinking . . ."

"And I love the way your eyes look now while you are talking of it," he said. "I'll be seeing them on those days when I take off. I'll always remember your eyes, sweetheart."

"I'll never forget anything about you," she declared. "Never!"

And though they had braced themselves against it from the very first, when the pick-up car pulled to a stop where they awaited at the curb, neither of them were prepared for sight of it. Until the last moment, until the driver said, "I'm sorry, sir," they clung to each other, kissing each other, their eyes locked together, so gallantly, although their lips were trembling and breaking up beneath.

And then he was inside and the driver shifted gears and the motor sounded and he was moving away from her.

She kept biting her lips to hold back screams, and then motion came into her body and she began to wave, wildly, and the words came out in a gasping rush, "Don't forget the tulips, Roy. Don't forget the tulips, darling."

And through the open window, he was yelling back, "I forgot to tell you, set out the apple trees in April. And if it's a girl—" The rest was drowned in motor roar.

The last he saw of her, as the car was emerged in traffic, she was standing at the curb, so tiny it seemed from that distance, and so rigid, and finally, so softly smiling.

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College and School News

(*Continued from page* 293)

Secretary of War from which position he recently resigned.

Rev. Prince A. Taylor Jr. has been named to head the new department of religious education at **Gammon Theological Seminary.** This department has been made possible by the Board of Education through its division of the local church, Dr. J. Q. Schisler, executive secretary. Rev. Taylor is an A.B. from Samuel Houston, Austin, Texas, A.M. from Columbia university and Union Theological Seminary in the field of religious education. He was recently assistant to the president of Bennett College.

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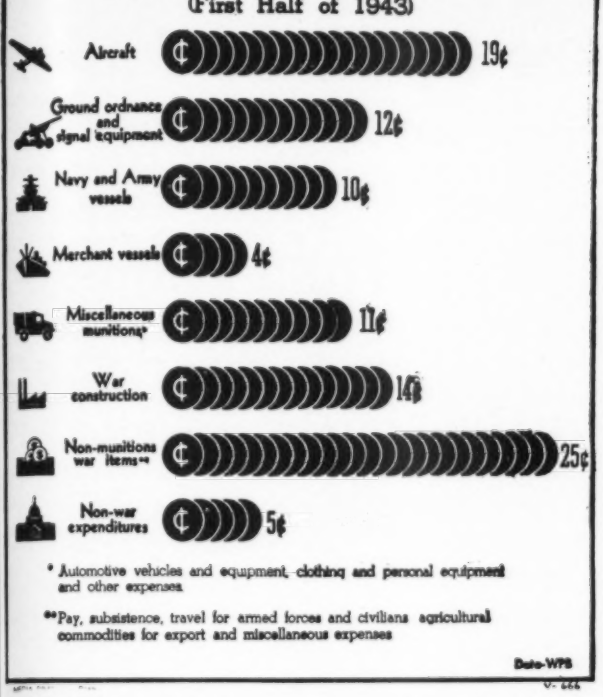

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